

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
EASTERN DIVISION

WALTER P. MOLKENBUR, SR.,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.)	Case No. 4:07CV1082 HEA
)	
MASSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF)	
AMERICA, et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

ORDER AND MEMORANDUM

This matter is before the Court upon the application of Walter P. Molkenbur, Sr. for leave to commence this action without payment of the required filing fee. *See* U.S.C. § 1915(a). Upon consideration of the financial information provided with the application, the Court will grant plaintiff provisional leave to file this action.

The Complaint

Plaintiff, a prisoner currently confined at the Fulton Reception and Diagnostic Center, seeks monetary and other relief pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Named as defendants are the Massiah Lutheran Church of America, Henry Wingard (“Pastor”) and Unknown Mansholt (“Bishop”). Plaintiff alleges that he was sexually assaulted and abused by church officials.

Discussion

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), venue for this action is proper where (i) any defendant resides, if all the defendants reside in the same state; (ii) a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred; or (iii) where any defendant may be found, if there is no district in which the action may otherwise be brought. All of the events described in the complaint occurred in Greene County, Missouri, which is located in the Western District of

Missouri. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 105(b)(5). Also, all of the defendants can be found in the Western District of Missouri. Therefore, venue is not proper in this district.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a), the District Court in which is filed a case laying venue in the wrong district may dismiss the case or, in the exercise of its discretion and in the interest of justice, transfer the petition to any District Court in which such action could have been brought. In cases involving a plaintiff who is proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis, especially a prisoner, the usual practice is to transfer the case to the proper district. Therefore, this complaint shall be transferred to the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri.

Because venue is not proper in this district, no determination has been made as to whether the complaint is frivolous or fails to state a claim, or both, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(A)(B).

In accordance with the foregoing,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that plaintiff is provisionally granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis, subject to modification by the Western District of Missouri upon transfer.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk shall not issue process or cause process to issue upon the complaint, because this action is being transferred to the Western District of Missouri.

An appropriate order shall accompany this order and memorandum.

Dated this 18th day of July, 2007.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Henry Edward Autrey", is written over a horizontal line.

HENRY EDWARD AUTREY
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE